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Forest Insect and Disease Management Group, S&PF
2500 Shreveport Highway
Pineville, Louisiana 71360

5230 Evaluation

August 12, 1976

Southern pine beetle evaluation

Forest Supervisor
National Forests in Alabama

During the period July 21-22, 1976, personnel of the Forest Insect and Disease Management Group, Pineville, Louisiana, conducted an aerial and ground appraisal of southern pine beetle infestations on the Black Warrior Ranger District of the Bankhead National Forest.

Only a few spots of dead or dying pines were detected during the aerial survey. These spots were well scattered over the District and ranged in size from one to six trees. Five of these spots were examined on the ground to determine the agent responsible for tree mortality and the status of current bark beetle populations. In these areas, the affected trees had been either struck by lightning or damaged by fire, and were subsequently attacked by pine engraver beetles, Ips spp. None of the trees examined were currently infested. No southern pine beetle activity was observed.

Results of this evaluation agree with findings of the Alabama State Forestry Commission which recently announced that the southern pine beetle population, that had been epidemic over most of the pine producing areas of the state in recent years, had either collapsed or been reduced to endemic status, statewide.

The following recommendations are suggested based on evaluation results:

Southern pine beetle project control no longer appears to be necessary. Consequently, consideration should be given for terminating the project on the Black Warrior District.

Any significant change in beetle activity on this District should be reported to this office immediately.

Southern pine beetle infestations observed by District personnel as they go about their daily work should be salvaged, if practical, as they are found.

The FI&DM Group will conduct an annual detection survey on this area to monitor beetle activity.

If you have questions regarding this appraisal, please let us know.

ROBERT C. LOOMIS

ROBERT C. LOOMIS
Field Representative, Alexandria
Forest Insect and Disease Management

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